

20) Cancelled

21) Cancelled

22) Cancelled

23) Cancelled

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the office action mailed on May 22, 2002. Claims 20-23 have been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, after entry of this amendment, claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

The office action rejected claims 1-23 as unpatentable over Torres (5,384,910) under 35 U.S.C. §103. In view of the remarks listed below, it is believed that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Namely, as the Examiner noted in the office action, Torres fails to suggest that the subsection configuration of the GUI allows the user reconfigure the shape of the subsection during use by the user. Rather, Torres is directed at rearranging the elements within a section of a GUI. Torres allows a user to drag an item in the section so that the section of the GUI can be rearranged. However, Torres does not contemplate that a control be provided to allow the user to specifically reshape the subsection of the GUI. The applicants in the present application specifically contemplated that the user could control the shape of a section of a GUI. Thus, this has been specifically recited in claims 1, 2, and 19 to more clearly define the applicants' invention. Thus, for example, Torres does not make obvious the acts of:

“providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to specifically control the shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface” as recited in claims 1, 2, and 19.

Similarly, in regard to claim 14, Torres does not make obvious the acts of:

“designating said subsection of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said subsection of said graphical user interface; and

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to specifically control the shape of said remainder of said graphical user interface” as recited in that claim. Rather, Torres merely teaches a system that allows a user to move elements of a subsection to different locales. There is no contemplation or motivation in Torres to allow the user to specifically reshape a portion of the GUI. Thus, there is no motivation to provide a control that allows the subsection to be reshaped independent of the rest of the GUI. Similarly, in the case of claim 14 and its dependent claims, there is no motivation in Torres to provide a control for the user that allows the user to control the shape of the remainder of the GUI while not resizing the subsection of the GUI.

Thus, the differences between the applicants' claims and the Torres reference are such that the claimed inventions would not have been obvious at the time the claimed inventions were made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Nathan F. Raciborski and Mark R. Thompson
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PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1) (Once amended) A method of providing a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing an initial configuration of said graphical user interface for use by a user;

configuring a subsection of said graphical user interface so as to allow said user to reconfigure the shape of said subsection during use by said user;

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to specifically control the shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface.

2) (Once amended) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface;

defining a subsection of said graphical user interface; [and]

designating said subsection of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure said subsection without reconfiguring the entire graphical user interface; and

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to specifically control the shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface.

3) (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

designating only said subsection of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable so that during use said user can reconfigure only said subsection without reconfiguring the remainder of said graphical user interface.

- 4) (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:
defining a maximum expansion size limit for said subsection.
- 5) (As filed) The method as described in claim 4 and further comprising:
utilizing a height of said subsection to define said maximum
expansion size limit of said subsection.
- 6) (As filed) The method as described in claim 4 and further comprising:
utilizing a width of said subsection to define said maximum
expansion size limit of said subsection.
- 7) (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:
defining a minimum compression size limit for said subsection.
- 8) (As filed) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:
utilizing a height of said subsection to define said minimum
compression size limit of said subsection.
- 9) (As filed) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:
utilizing a width of said subsection to define said minimum
compression size limit of said subsection.
- 10) (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:
allowing said user to expand the entire graphical user interface;
expanding said subsection in a manner proportional to said
expansion of said entire graphical user interface; and
discontinuing expansion of said subsection at a predetermined
boundary for said subsection while continuing to expand said remainder of said graphical
user interface.

11) (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:
designating a plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure at least one of said plurality of subsections without reconfiguring the entire graphical user interface.

12) (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:
allowing said user to relocate said subsection within the graphical user interface.

13) (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:
allowing said user to define spatial rules for said subsection.

14) (Once amended) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:
providing a graphical user interface;
defining a subsection of said graphical user interface;
designating said subsection of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said subsection of said graphical user interface; and
providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to specifically control the shape of said remainder of said graphical user interface.

15) (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:
designating only said subsection of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable so that during use said user can reconfigure only the remainder of

said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said subsection of said graphical user interface.

16) (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

designating a plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface.

17) (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

allowing said user to reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface while retaining said subsection in a fixed location relative to a reference point.

18) (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

allowing said user to define spatial rules for the remainder of said graphical user interface.

19) (Once amended) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface;
designating a subsection of said graphical user interface;
defining spatial properties of said subsection;
providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to specifically control the shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface

permitting a user to reconfigure said graphical user interface with
said control while retaining said spatial properties of said subsection.

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